

MUDSLINGING (pages 94–97)**Summarizing**

In a **summary**, you write the important ideas from a text in a shortened form and in your own words.

Read each passage from "Mudslinging." Then circle the letter of the better summary.

1. The day before the wedding, the groom's father visits the bride's house. He knocks on the door and insists on being let in. With him are other members of the groom's family: aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers.

Those inside the house open the door just a crack and say, "Who are you? What do you want?" They act like they don't know him. "War is declared!" the groom's father announces loudly. He pushes the door open, and then the craziness begins.

- a. The groom's father, along with the rest of the groom's family—aunts, uncles, sisters, and brothers—visits the bride's house, and the craziness begins.
- b. The groom's father visits the bride's house and demands to be let in. The bride's family pretend they don't know him, and the war begins.
2. The groom and his family have secretly prepared buckets of mud, which they have brought with them. The mud is four different colors, one for each of the four directions: north, south, east, and west. It is sacred mud. These people rush into the bride's house and grab everyone, including the bride, and drag them out into the yard. The groom's family dig into the buckets of mud and begin throwing it, smearing it on every person they can catch. The bride's family dip into the mud, too. Before long the yard is swarming with people of all ages, from babies to old grandmothers and grandfathers, flinging mud at each other as if they've lost their minds.
- a. The groom and his family bring buckets of mud. After they pull everyone from the bride's house outside, they begin to throw mud at the bride and her family. The bride's family starts throwing mud from the buckets at the groom's family. Soon everyone is throwing mud.
- b. The groom's family brings pails of mud. The mud is sacred. It is four different colors for the four directions: the north, the south, the east, and the west.
3. The Mudslinging ends peacefully. Once the buckets are emptied and everyone is coated with mud, the participants shake hands and make peace. Food is shared, a feast of corn and mutton, a lot of food.
- a. The Mudslinging ends peacefully. The participants shake hands and make peace.
- b. After the Mudslinging ends, everyone makes peace and shares a feast.

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Author's Purpose

The reason why an author writes is called the **author's purpose**.

Read each passage below. Then fill in the chart with the author's purpose. Choose from these purposes:

to teach or inform

to entertain

to persuade the reader to think or act in a certain way

to share thoughts and feelings

Passage	Author's Purpose
1. Be sure to come to our beautiful city on your next trip. While you are here, you can see works of art in our museums. You can see a play or visit the world-famous zoo. If you want to know more about the fun you can have here, look at our Web site today. Don't wait. Act now!	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2. Riddle: What do you give an alligator that demands dinner? Answer: Anything it wants	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3. The Mudslinging ends peacefully. Once the buckets are emptied and everyone is coated with mud, the participants shake hands and make peace. Food is shared, a feast of corn and mutton, a lot of food.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4. I love the country after a snowstorm. To me, the tree branches covered with snow look like something from a fairy tale. The sunlight on the new snow almost blinds me with its clean whiteness. If I ever moved away from my snowy home, I'd make sure that, at least once every winter, I could visit it just after a big snowfall.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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Synonyms

A **synonym** is a word that means the same, or nearly the same, as another word. For example, *bucket* and *pail* are synonyms.

A. Circle the word that is a synonym for the underlined word in each sentence.

1. Can you imagine families throwing mud, just for fun?

hurling making bringing

2. Believe it or not, there is a purpose for the custom.

punishment price reason

3. Marriage is a solemn event to the Hopi people.

old-fashioned serious silly

4. Mudslinging happens the day before the wedding takes place.

marriage fight insult

5. The groom's father visits the home of the bride's family.

church house father

6. He knocks at the bride's door.

kneels waits raps

7. The groom's family has brought buckets of mud to throw at the bride's family.

forgotten carried made

B. Match each word to its synonym. On each blank, write the letter of the correct synonym.

_____ 1. drag a. grownup

_____ 2. foolish b. holy

_____ 3. adult c. village

_____ 4. sacred d. pull

_____ 5. town e. silly

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Words to Know

custom sacred wistful disputes hilarity

A. Fill in each blank with the word from the list that best completes the sentence.

1. Mudslinging is a Hopi _____ that is done when people get married.
2. Dan's face became _____ as he remembered his wedding day.
3. Sometimes family members have arguments, or _____.
4. Mudslinging is a time of much fun and _____.
5. The Hopi use four kinds of _____ mud for the Mudslinging.

B. Write **true** or **false** in each blank.

- _____ 1. A **custom** is a bucket filled with mud.
- _____ 2. Something that is **sacred** is the same as something that is holy.
- _____ 3. A **wistful** expression is dreamy.
- _____ 4. **Hilarity** means names people call each other.
- _____ 5. Saying mean things to someone can cause **disputes**.

Writing Activity

An **acrostic** is a poem or series of lines in which the beginning letters form a message or name. Look at the word "mud" as shown below. Next to each letter, use the **Words to Know** to write a sentence about the Hopi marriage ritual.

M	_____
U	_____
D	_____